









These graphics show the elements that should be considered and reported with suspected substance related, drowning, falls, firearms, and SUID cases.

Frequently Used Data Elements Collection Systems and Primary Documentation

This measles chart is intended to provide a graphical representation of government systems that collect similar death investigation data elements. The X axis represents five mortality collection systems, and the Y axis represents the frequently used data elements put together by the MDI-Data-WG. Layered on top of this information are sections of color that correspond to the primary documentation in the upper left-corner of where that information may typically come from (i.e., primary documentation source).



Primary Documentation







-  Decedent
-  Scene(s)
-  Witness Reports
-  Documentation/Records
-  Output of the MEC Investigation
-  *For a delayed death, this information may only be available via Documentation/Records.*

Medicolegal Death Investigations: Case-Specific Data Elements Captured in Federal Mortality Data Systems

Medicolegal Death Investigation
Core Data Elements

	US Standard Death Certificate	National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDORS)	State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)	National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS)	National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs - Unidentified and Unclaimed)	National Forensic Laboratory Information System Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices (NFLIS-MEC)
Demographic						
Name						
Age						
Age Unit						
Date of Birth						
Gender						
Sex						
Race						
Ethnicity						
Social Security Number						
Marital Status						
Next of Kin						
Occupation						
Putative Name						
Location						
Name and address where found dead, unconscious, or in distress						
Type of place where injury occurred						
Certified street address of injury						
Decedent's residence – details						
Type of Residence						
Scene investigation address						
Decedent's address						
Categorization of place of death						
Name of place where death was pronounced						
Address of place where death was pronounced						
Type of place where death was pronounced						
Place last known alive						
Name of hospital where decedent was first taken						







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Medicolegal Death Investigations: Case-Specific Data Elements Captured in Federal Mortality Data Systems

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Circumstances						
Cause-specific information						
Safety issues						
Social history						
OSHA injury						
Who last knew decedent to be alive						
Number of other persons known to be dead from same incident						
Who found the decedent						
Deaths associated with legal intervention						
Informants/witnesses						
Events leading to death occurred while decedent was working						
How decedent was last known to be alive						
Potential referrals						
Drugs found at scene						
Date and Time						
Case reviews						
Date and time death was pronounced						
Qualification of date of death						
Certified date and time of death						
Certified time of injury						
Year by which case is categorized						
Date death reported to MEC						
Date and time found dead						
Dates of all examinations, inspections, and/or case reviews, and by whom						
Date and time of injury/onset of events leading to death						
Qualification of injury date						
Date and time last known alive						
Date and time decedent arrived at hospital						







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Narrative						
Narrative description of circumstances						
Medical History						
Pregnancy history						
Medical history						
Decedent's physicians or health providers						
Type of agonal treatment or therapy						
Recent trauma						
Family medical history						
Procedures performed						
Prescriptions						
Exam/Autopsy						
Specific autopsy findings – autopsy report						
Organ weights						
Ancillary procedures performed						
Limited autopsy						
Toxicology						
Toxicology results						
Specific tox tests performed						
Toxicology samples						
Cause & Manner						
Cause of Death (lines 1-4)						
Other significant conditions						
Manner of death						
Duration of condition of cause of death (lines 1-4)						
Certified explanation of how injury occurred						

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Case Specific						
Suspected Substance-Related Elements						
Suspected Drowning-Related Elements						
Suspected Fall-Related Elements						
Suspected Sudden Unexplained Infant Death-Related Elements						
Suspected Firearm-Related Elements						

Note: Case-specific data elements captured during an investigation do not stand alone, but rather complement the Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements.

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